16th *July*: Sri Lankan Navy fired on Indian fishermen west of Kachatheevu injuring 2 fishermen;

29*th*/30*th July*. Sri Lankan Navy fired upon seven Indian fishing boats off Dhanushkodi causing damage ot one boat and injuring some fishermen.

14*th September* Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters fired at Indian fishing boats resulting in the death of 3 fishermen and injuries to 21 others

29*th October*. Sri Lankan Navy fired on an Indian boat off Point Pedro, no casualties reported .

13*th November* Sri Lankan Navy opened fire on an Indian fishing boat at Kachatheevu area resulting in death of three persons

(c) and (d) Under the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreement of 1974, we had agreed to Sri Lanka's title to Kachatheevu island However, in terms of Article 5 of the Agreement, "Indian fishermen and pilgrims will enjoy access to visit Kacha-Theevu as hitherto and will not be required by Sri Lanka to obtain travel documents or visas for this purpose" The Government of India have no intention to reopen this Agreement. What is needed is its effective implementation—an objective which we are constantly pursuing

Augmentation ship service from Madras to Europe

708. SHRI S MADHAVAN Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the shippers and manufacturers in Tamil Nadu have appealed to the Shipping Corporation of India to augment the services from Madras to Europe and to resume the service to Australia suspended since May, 1990, and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on their representations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., operates regular break-bulk services from Madras to U.K./Continent Shipping Corporation of India also offers Container Service from Madras to Europe every 17 days on the average During January-September, 1990, 17 foreign shipping lines also offered 145 sailings on this route, mostly feeders connecting cargo to main-line vessels at Colombo or Singapore. Thus, there are already adequate sailings available and SCI vessels have, in fact, sailed from Madras with un-utilised space in the absence of adequate cargo Therefore, SCI feel that there is no commercial need to augment the service on this sector.

SCI suspended its service to Australia for reasons of non-viability The accumulated losses of SCI during 1961-62 to 1989-90 work out to Rs 46 76 crores on this service Since SCI operates on commercial lines, it is not considered desirable to resume this service.

Australian initiative to solve Sri Lanka Tamil problems

709 SHRI S MADHAVAN Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Australia have taken steps to solve the Sri Lankan Tamil problem through the Commonwealth Association,

(b) what are the initiatives taken by that Government in this regard, and

(c) whether the Government of India was sounded on these proposals by the Australian Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) and (b) Government are aware that the Australian Prime Minister had written to the President of Sri Lanka proposing a Commonwealth good offices role to mediate in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

(c) The Australian Government informed us of their initiative.

Foodstuff sent for Indians stranded in Gulf

710 SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of ship-loads of foodstuff sent to Gulf countries to help the Indian stranded there;

(b) what are the details of the foodstuff consumed by the Indians; and

(c) what was the fate of the ships that reached after the evacuation of Indians was completed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The ship M. V. 'Vishwa Siddhi' carried to Iraq, 9,475 tonne of foodstuff for this purpose.

(b) 2,315 tonnes comprising:

Rice—2,034 tonnes

Sugar—58 tonnes

Pulses—152 tonnes

Atta—43 tonnes

Chillies—9 tonnes

Coriander—6 tonnes

Salt, Tea, Pickles & Milk—13 tonnes

was distributed to Indian nationals.

(c) The M. V. 'Vishwa Sinddhi' unloaded its cargo of foodstuffs and left Iraq on December 11, 1990. No other ship was sent to Iraq for this purpose.

National committee for rehabilitation of Gulf returnees

711. SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to set up a national committee for the rehabilitation of the evacuees from Gulf countries;

(b) what are the steps taken to rehabilitate the evacuees; and

(c) what is the total amount spent on their evacuation and rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A proposal to that effect is under consideration

(b) and (c) The Government of India have not so far rehabilitated the repatriated Indians from Gulf countries. The total expenditure on repatriation of Indian citizens from Iraq and Kuwait is approximately Rs. 300 crores.

Rehabilitation of people affected by Irrigation and river valley products

712 SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a policy for the rehabilitation of people affected by irrigation and river valley projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated a draft National Policy on rehabilitation of project displaced persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes. This policy, when finalised, will also be applicable to Scheduled Tribe people affected by irrigation and river valley projects. It stipulates conditions for cultural and socio-economic rehabilitation, so as to cause least distress through displacement.